

MARVEL

1

LERNER
BROCCARDO
UNDERWOOD
SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA.

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

CAPTAIN MARVEL



FOR YEARS, THE SYMBIOTES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN LEAVING TRACES OF GENETIC MATERIAL—CALLED **CODICES**—WITHIN THE SPINES OF THEIR HOSTS.

CLETUS KASADY, A.K.A. THE SYMBIOTIC SERIAL KILLER CALLED **CARNAGE**, HAS RESURFACED, LOOKING TO EXTRACT THE CODICES THROUGH BLOODY AND BRUTAL MEANS, HOPING TO AWAKEN **NULL**—GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES—and summon him to Earth.

CARNAGE HAS BEEN MONITORING FORMER HOSTS FOR WEEKS BY INFECTING SMALL ANIMALS CLOSE TO THEM WITH HIS SYMBIOTE—INCLUDING CAPTAIN MARVEL'S PET CAT/ALIEN FLERKIN, CHEWIE...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

CAPTAIN MARVEL

**WARNING: THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE BEFORE
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5.**

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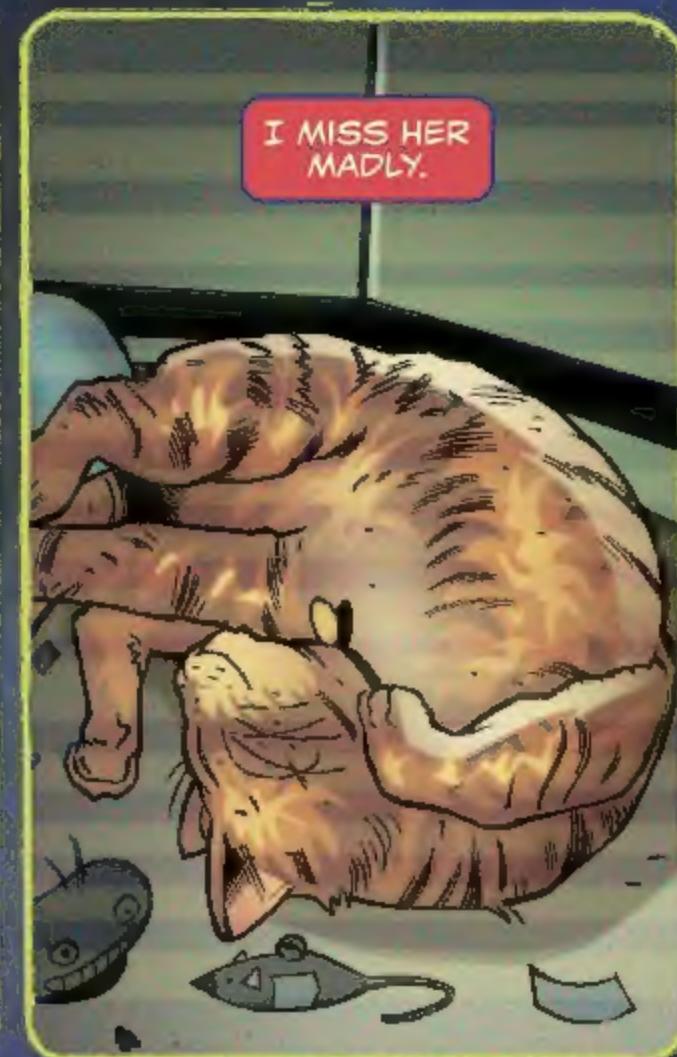
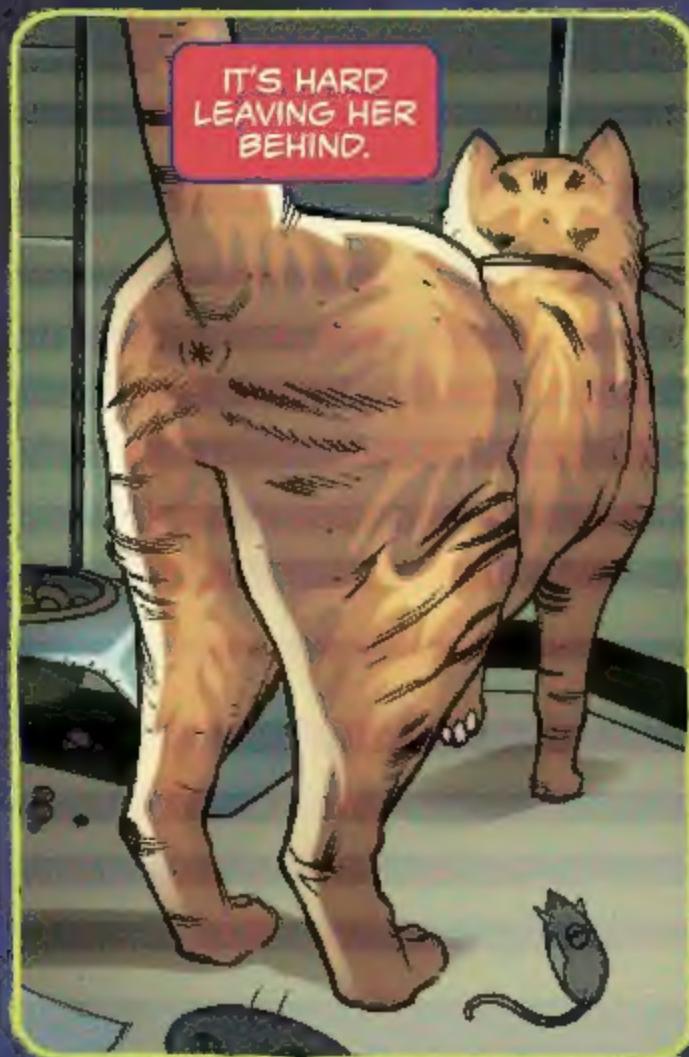
SPACE.

IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE
TO ARTICULATE THE
EXPERIENCE OF BEING
SURROUNDED BY INFINITY...

...BECAUSE
THERE'S NO WAY
TO WRAP YOUR
MIND AROUND THE
VASTNESS. BEING
UP HERE CAN BE
DISORIENTING...

...TO THE POINT
OF BRINGING ON
EXISTENTIAL DREAD.





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IN LARGE PART BECAUSE
I DON'T COMPLETELY
TRUST PHYLLIS IN
APARTMENT 5D...

LAST TIME SHE
CAT-SAT, SHE
OVERFED CHEWIE
FOR A MONTH
STRAIGHT.

TIME FOR
DIN-DIN.

MEOW?

SO THAT WHEN I
RETURNED HOME--

INCOMING!

KR-THOOOM

UHHHH.
WHAT DID YOU
DO TO MY
CAT?

--CHEWIE
WAS A
MONSTER.

MEOW.

THREAT:
NEUTRALIZED.
SHOWER:
REQUIRED.

ON MY
WAY BACK TO
YOU, SWEET
GIRL.

THAT'S WEIRD.

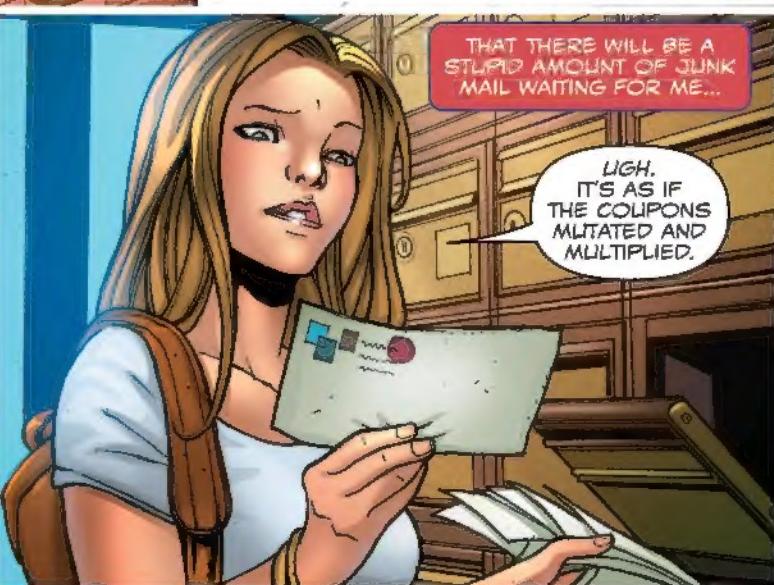
THE CHEWIE-CAM
MUST HAVE RAN OUT
OF BATTERIES.

EAST VILLAGE.

NOW THAT PHYLLIS UNDERSTANDS PORTION CONTROL, I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON AT LEAST TWO THINGS WHEN I RETURN HOME FROM A MISSION:

THAT THERE WILL BE A STUPID AMOUNT OF JUNK MAIL WAITING FOR ME...

UGH. IT'S AS IF THE COUPONS MUTATED AND MULTIPLIED.



...AND THAT CHEWIE WON'T BE OBESE.

CHEWIE, I'M BAAACK--



CHEWIE?



CHEW-CHEW?

CHEWSTER, CHEW-SKI?

CHEWBAA--?

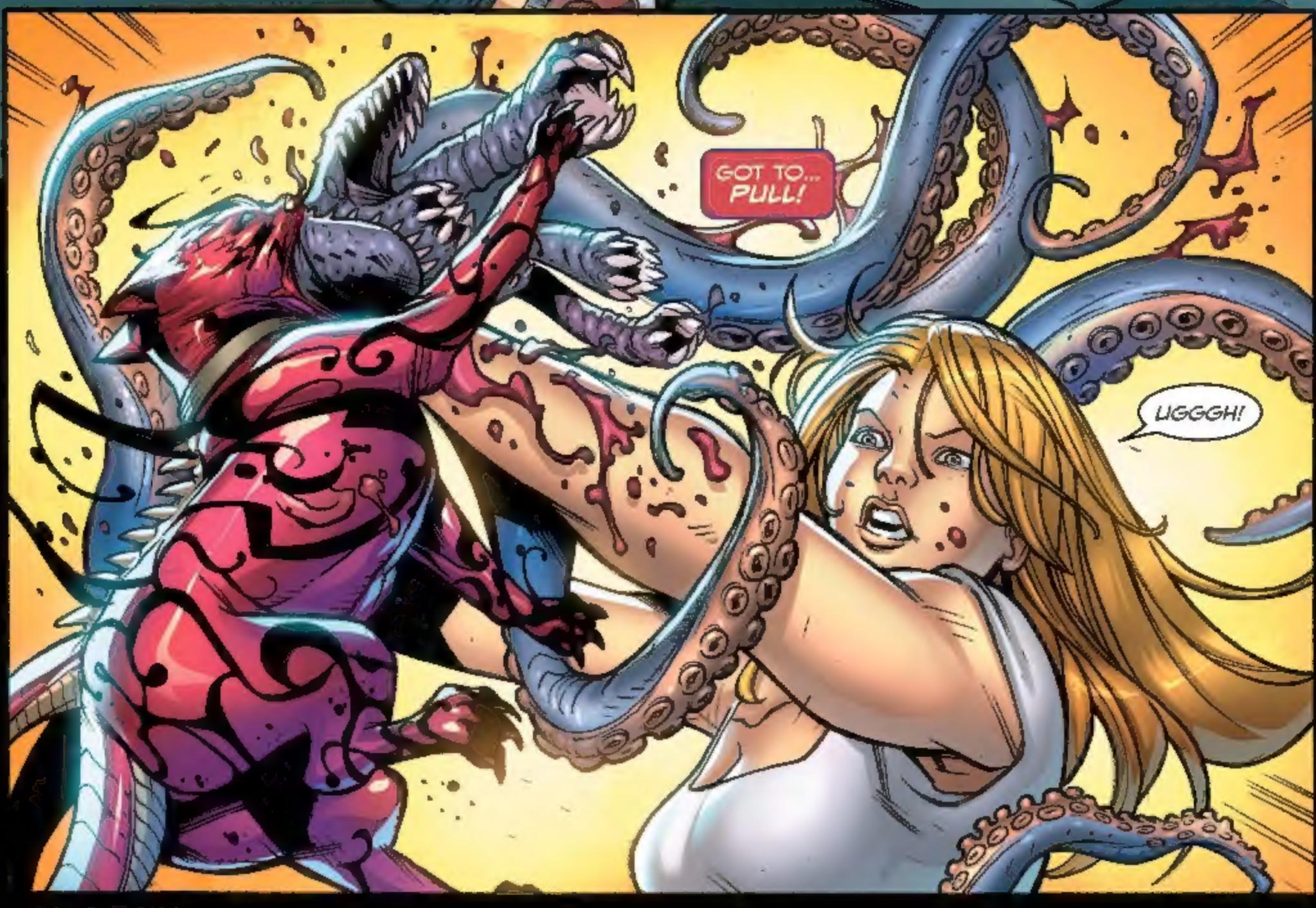
CRAP.



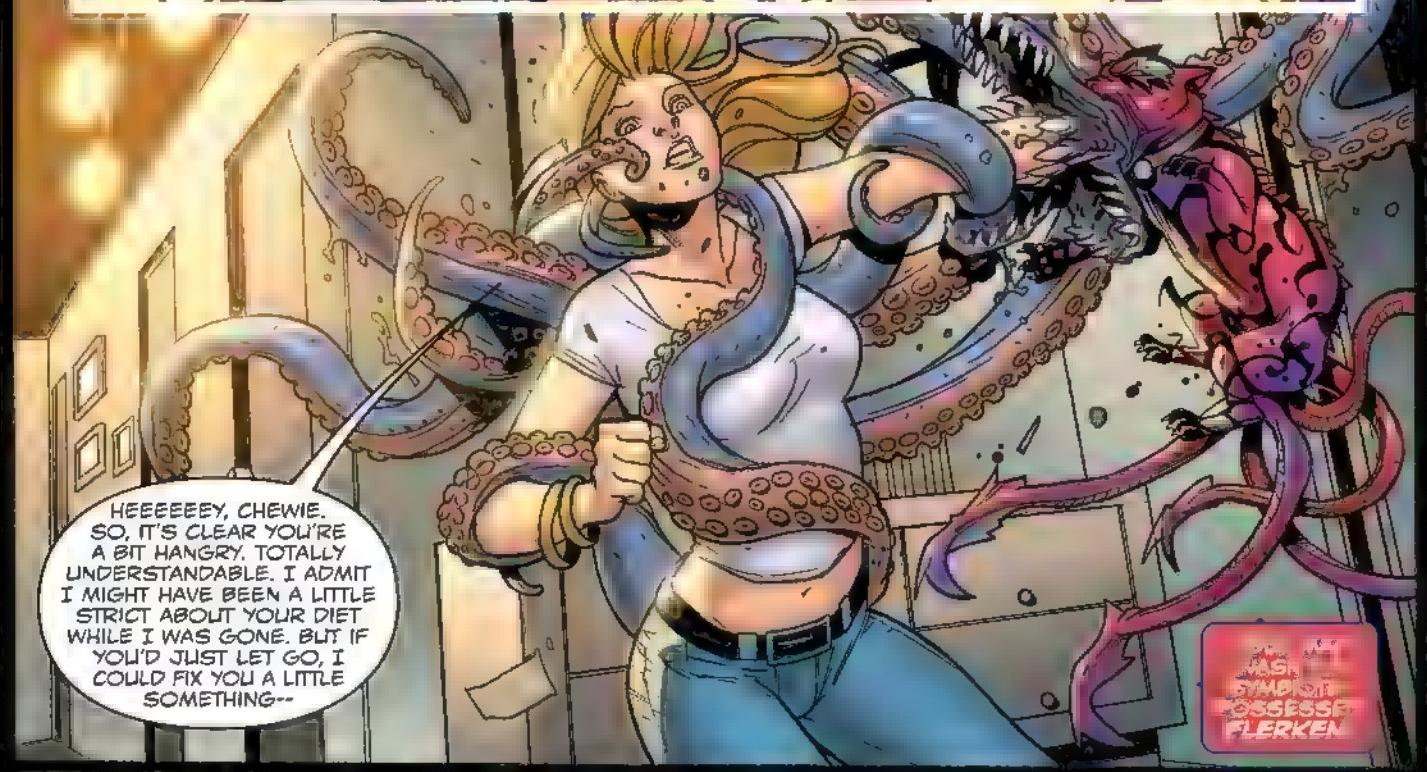
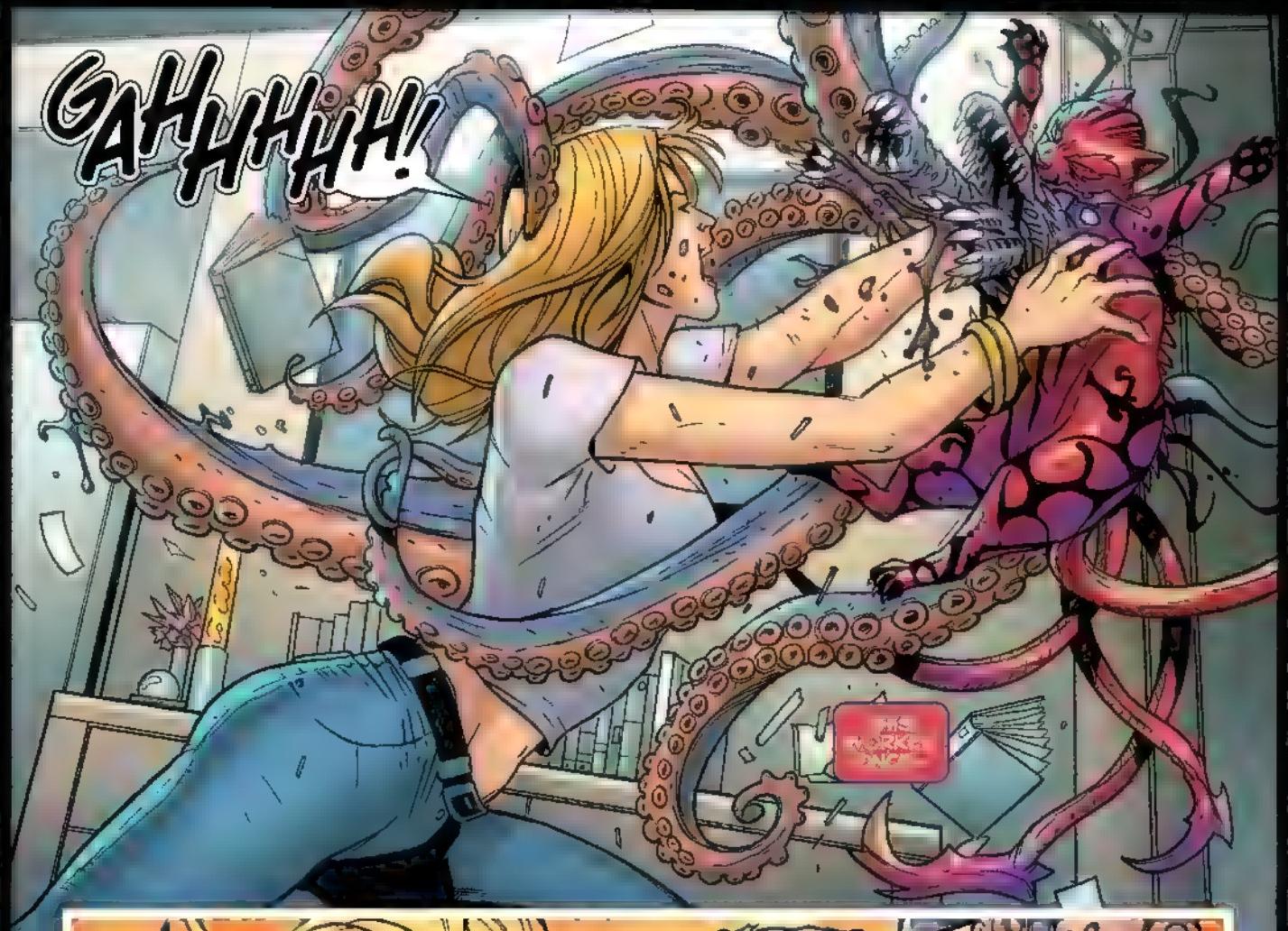
WELL, THIS IS
WORSE THAN
A FAT CAT.

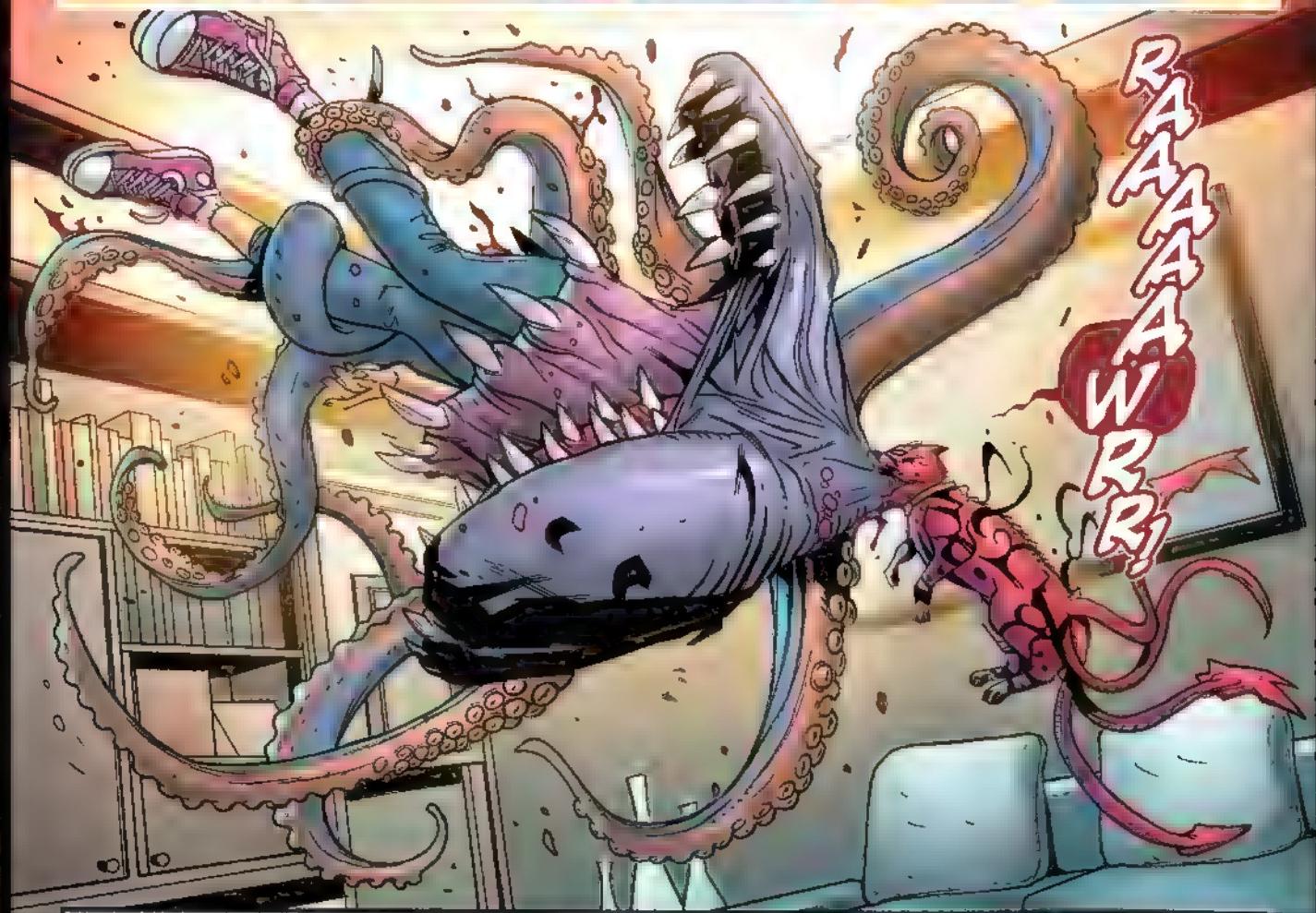
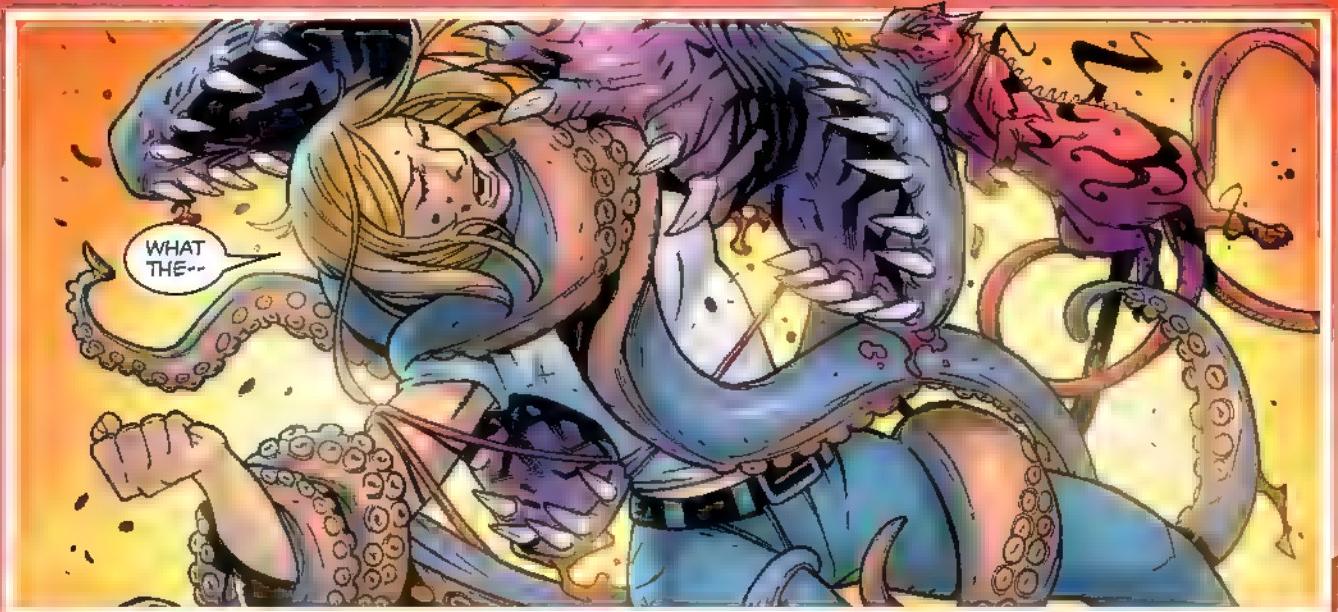
I'VE
GOT EYES
ON YOU,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL.





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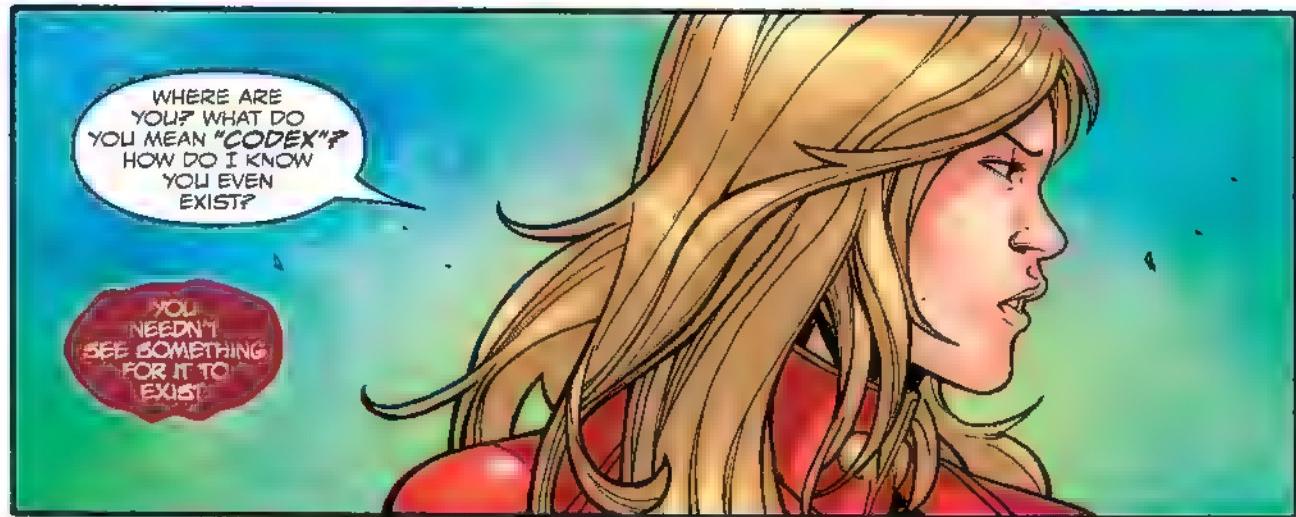




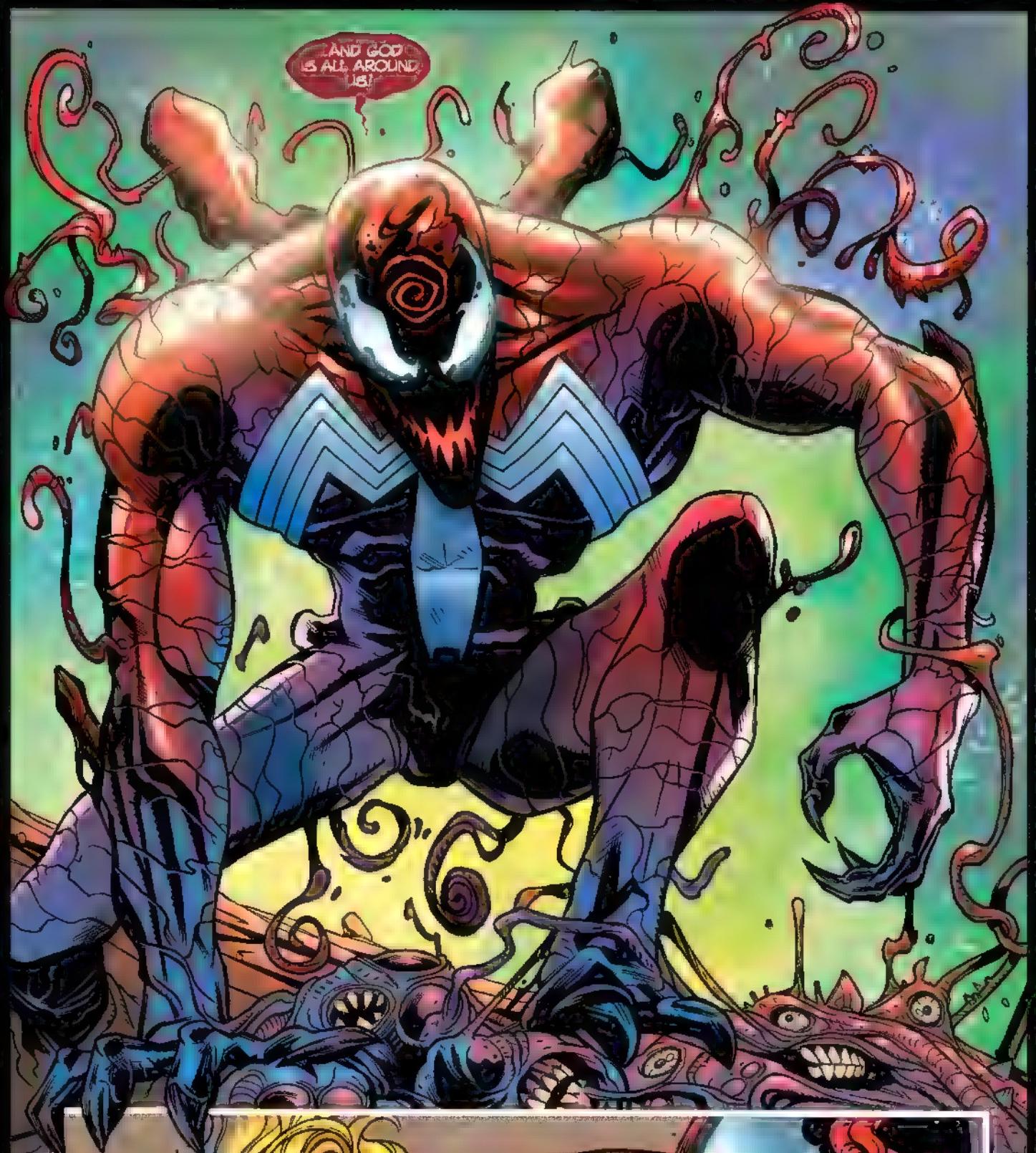


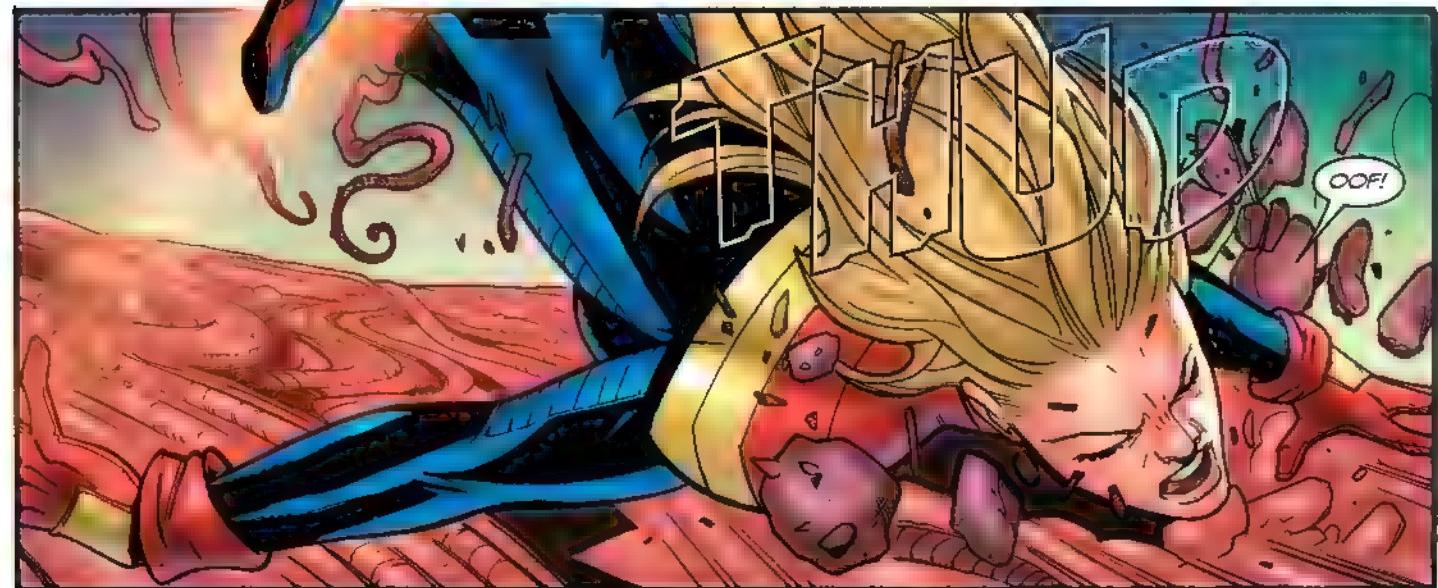
*BACK IN SIEGE: SPIDER-MAN,
VENOMANIACS! --DANNY

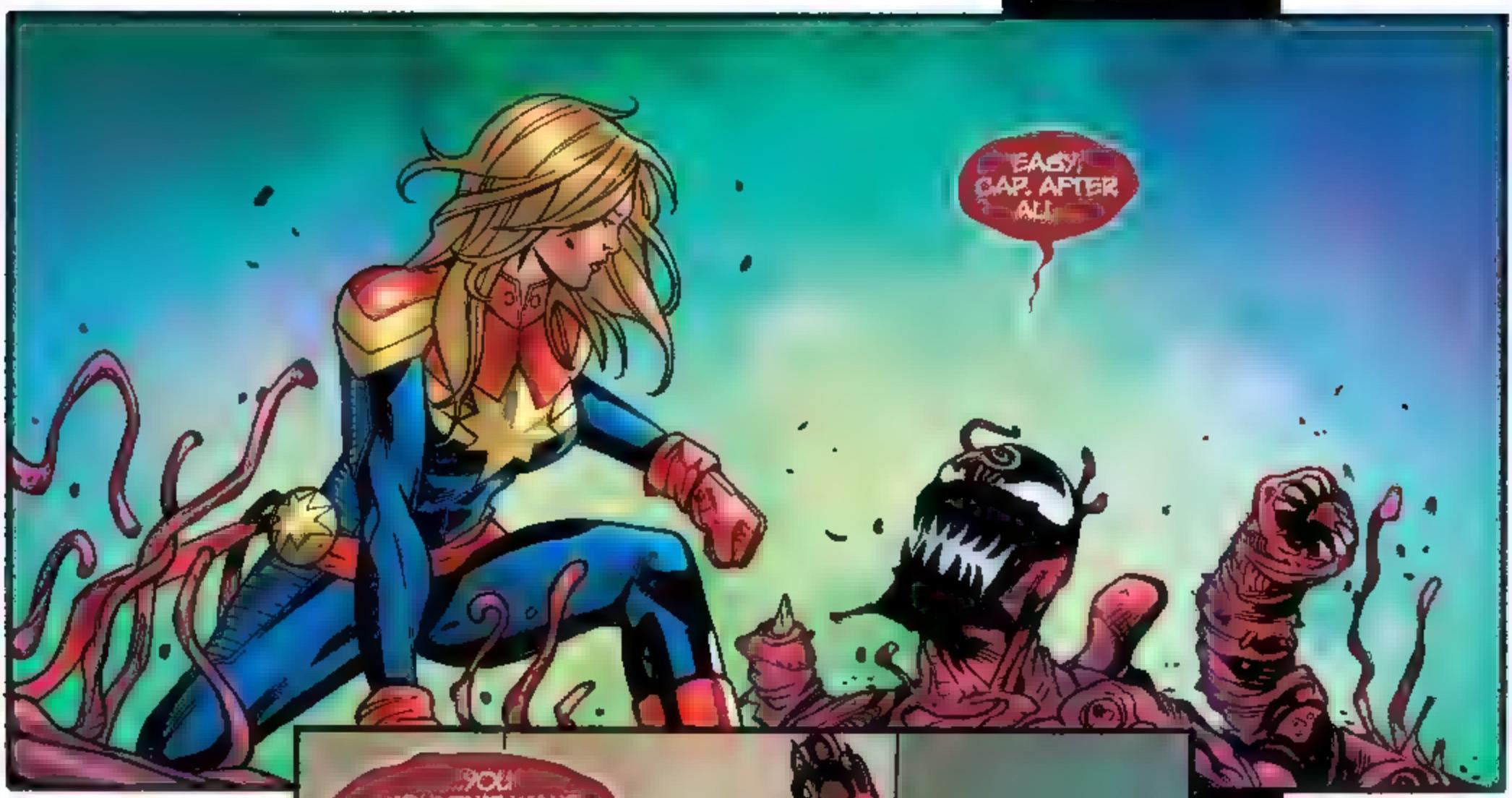




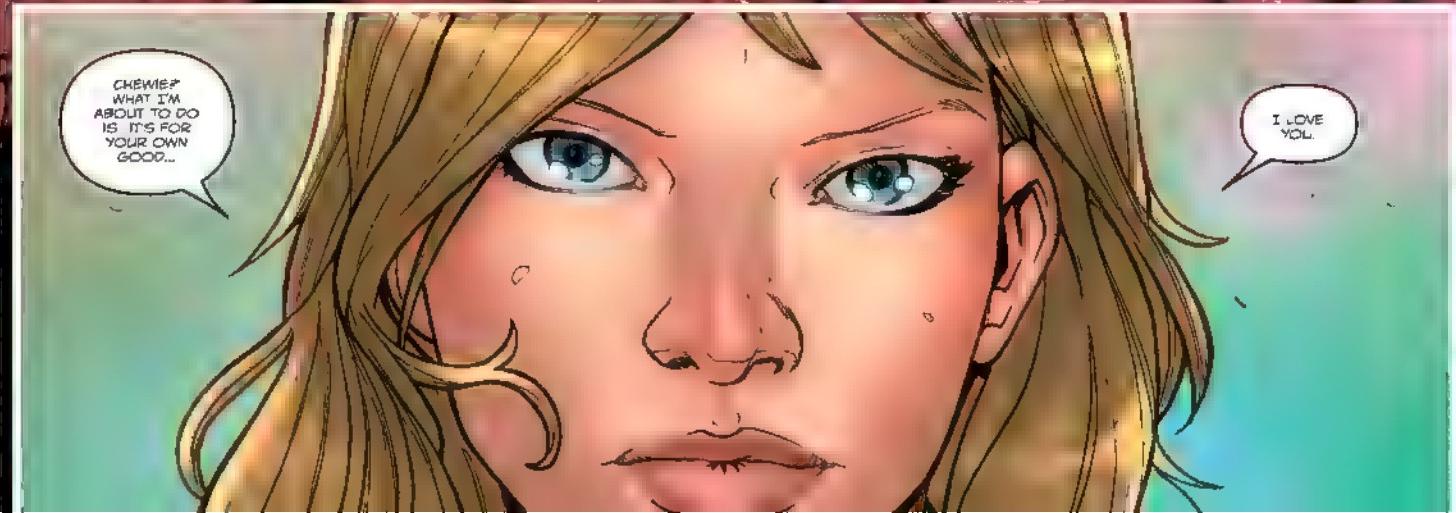
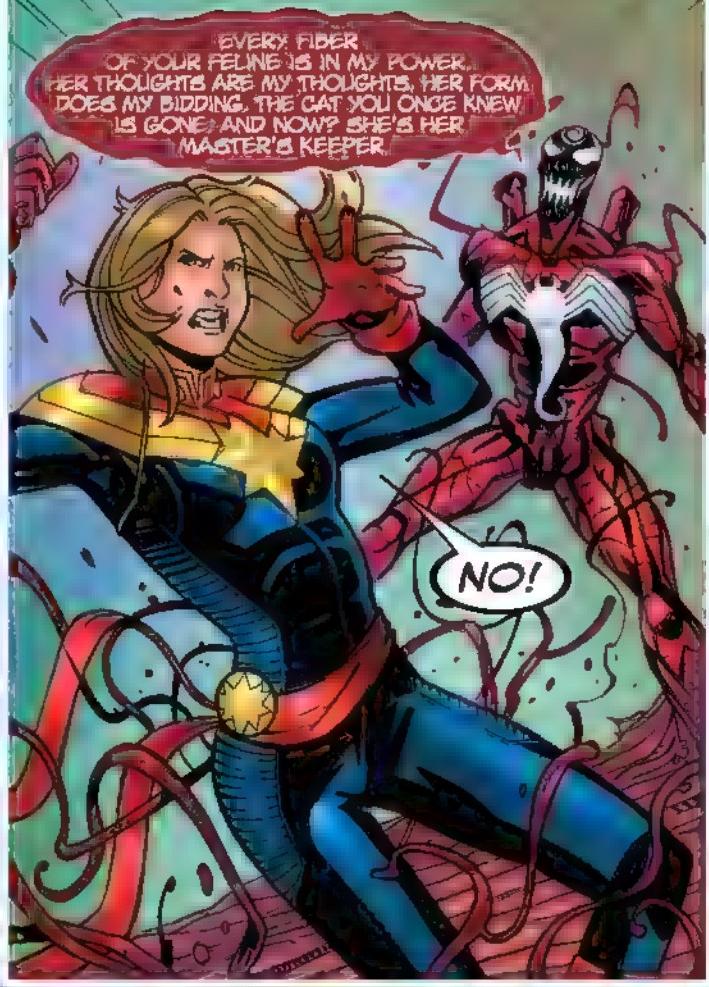
AND GOD
IS ALL AROUND
US!

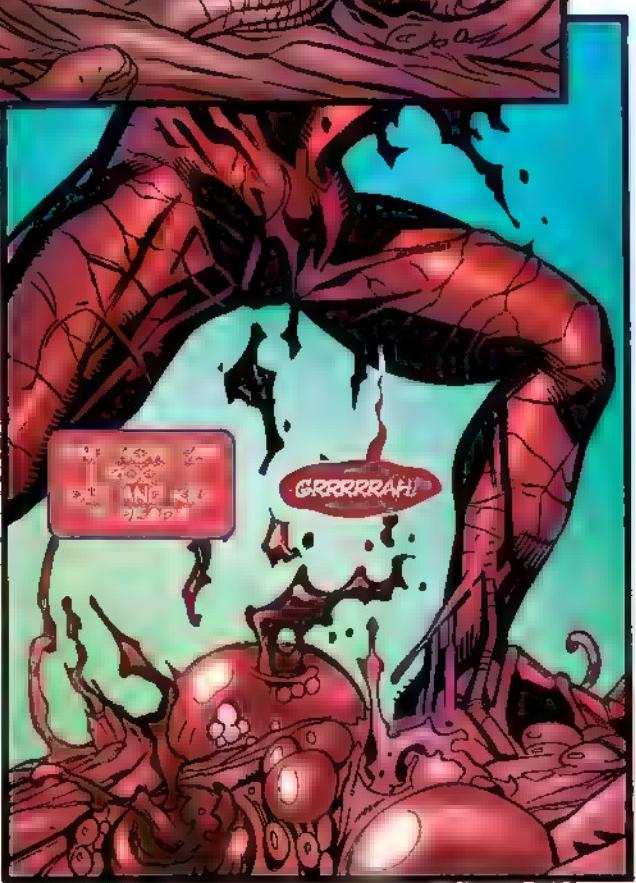






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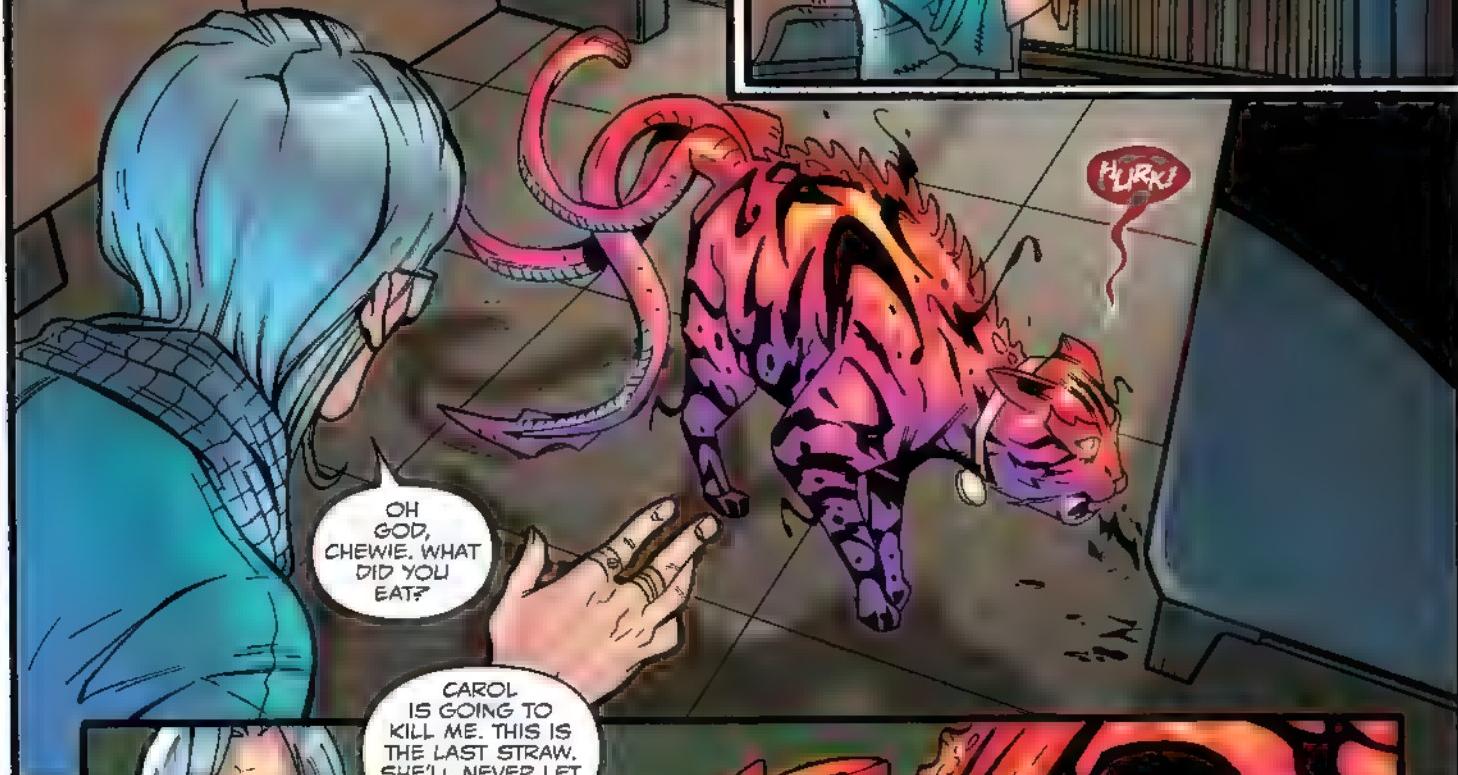
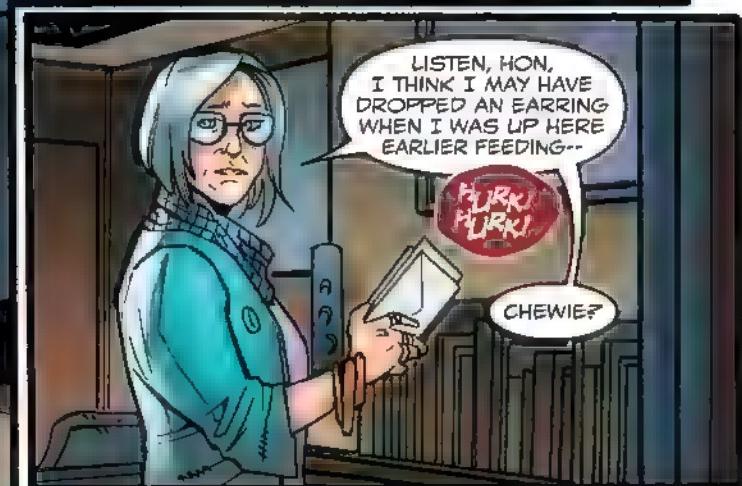


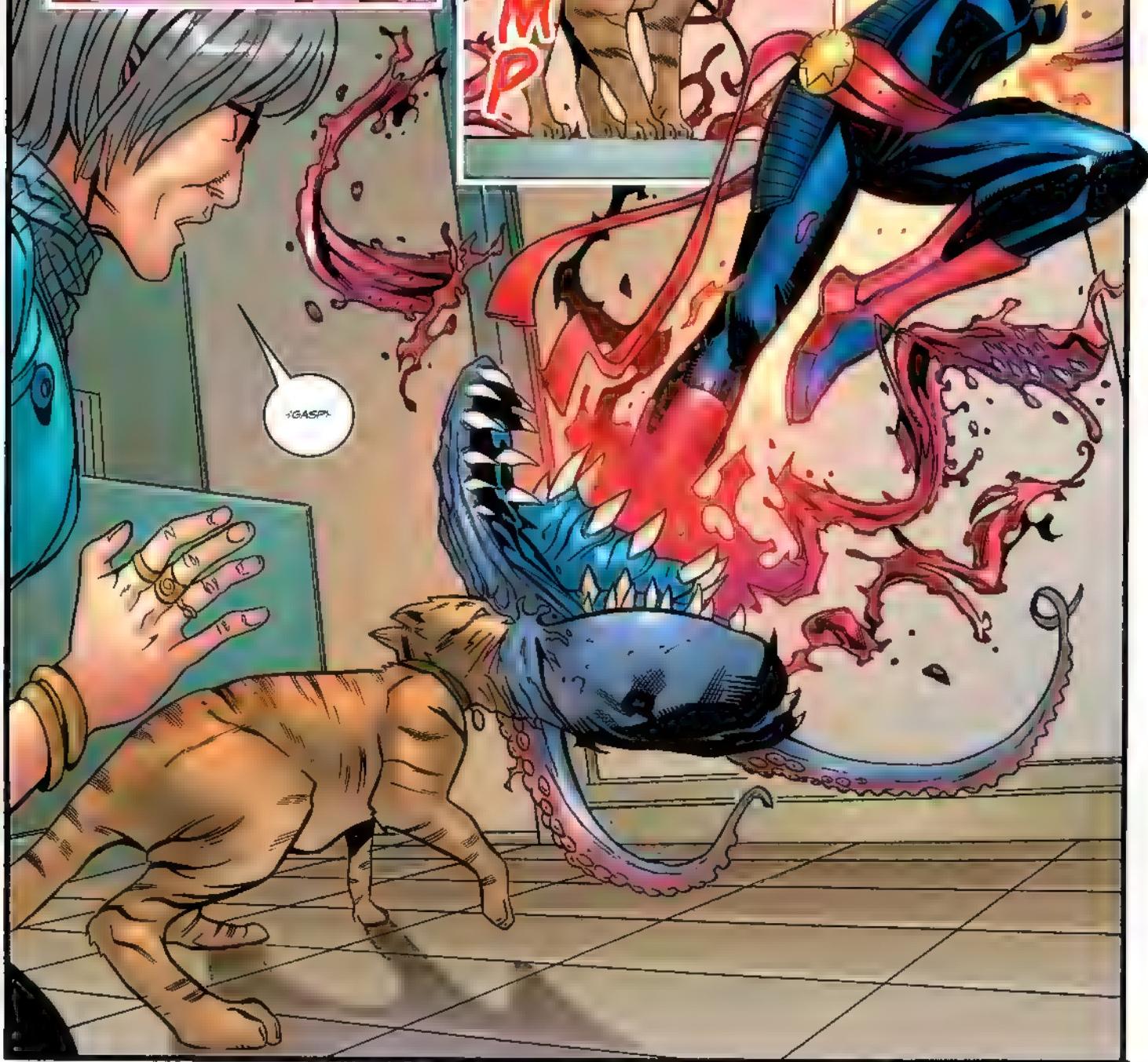


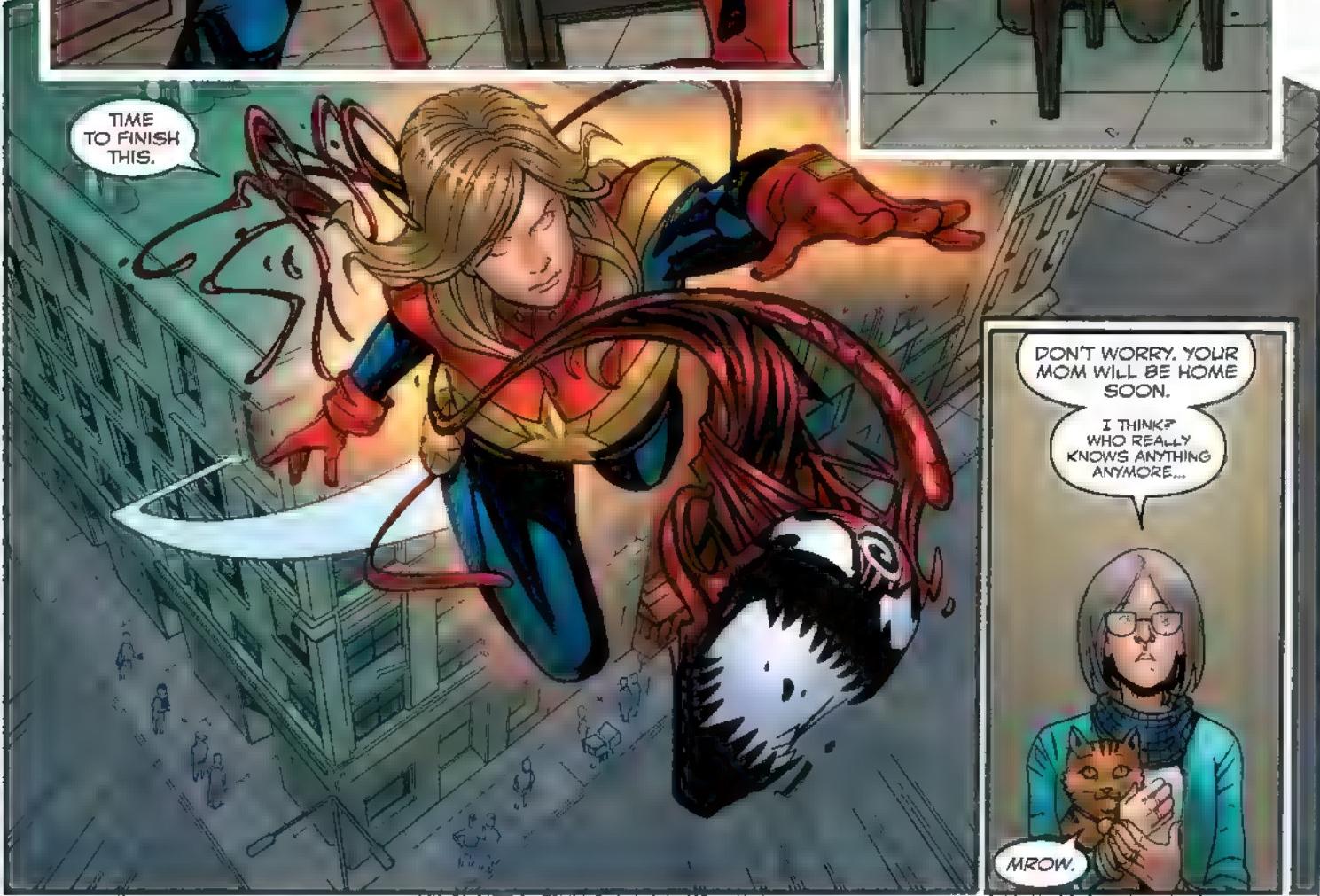
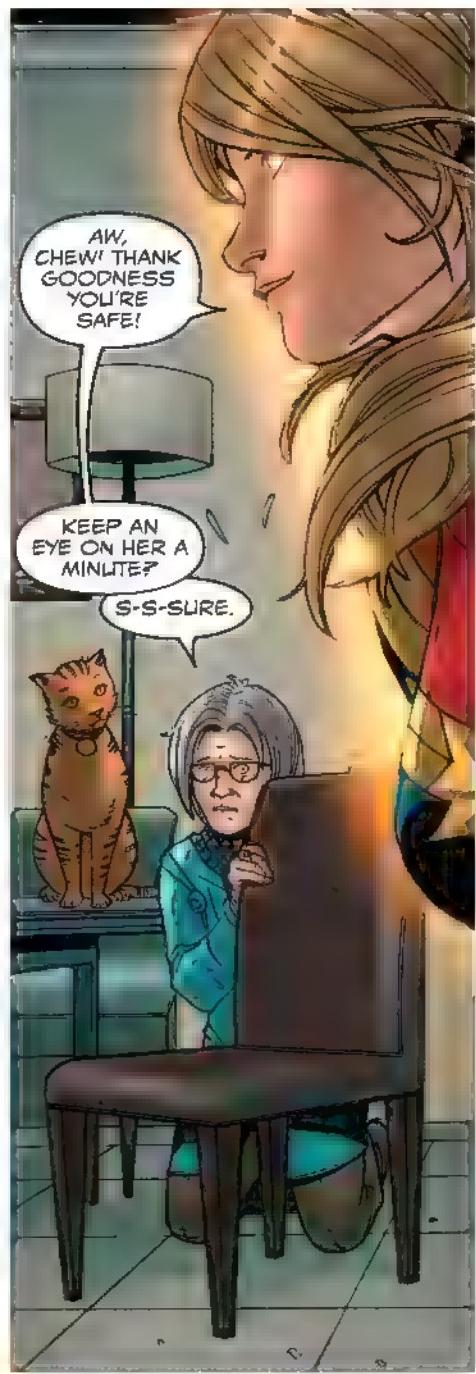


THERE'S
MORE THAN ONE
WAY TO SKIN A
SPACE CAT.

MEANWHILE...

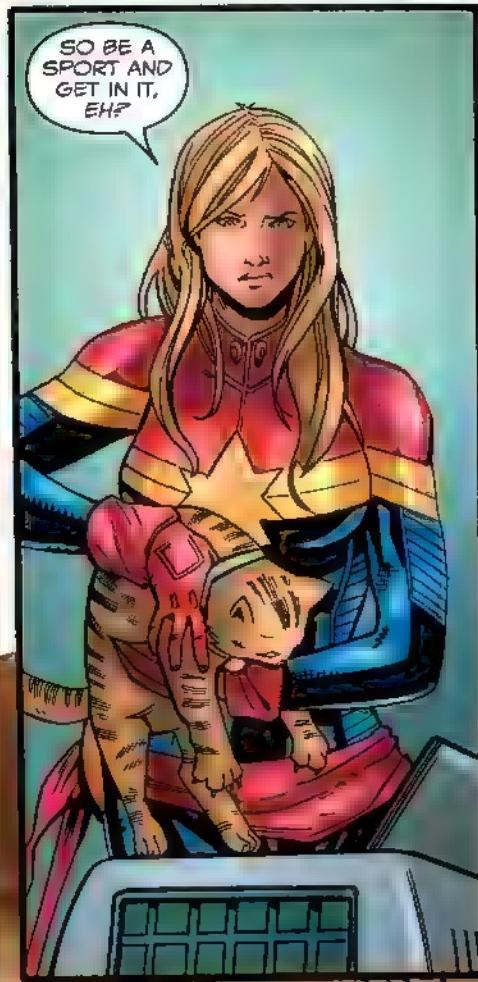




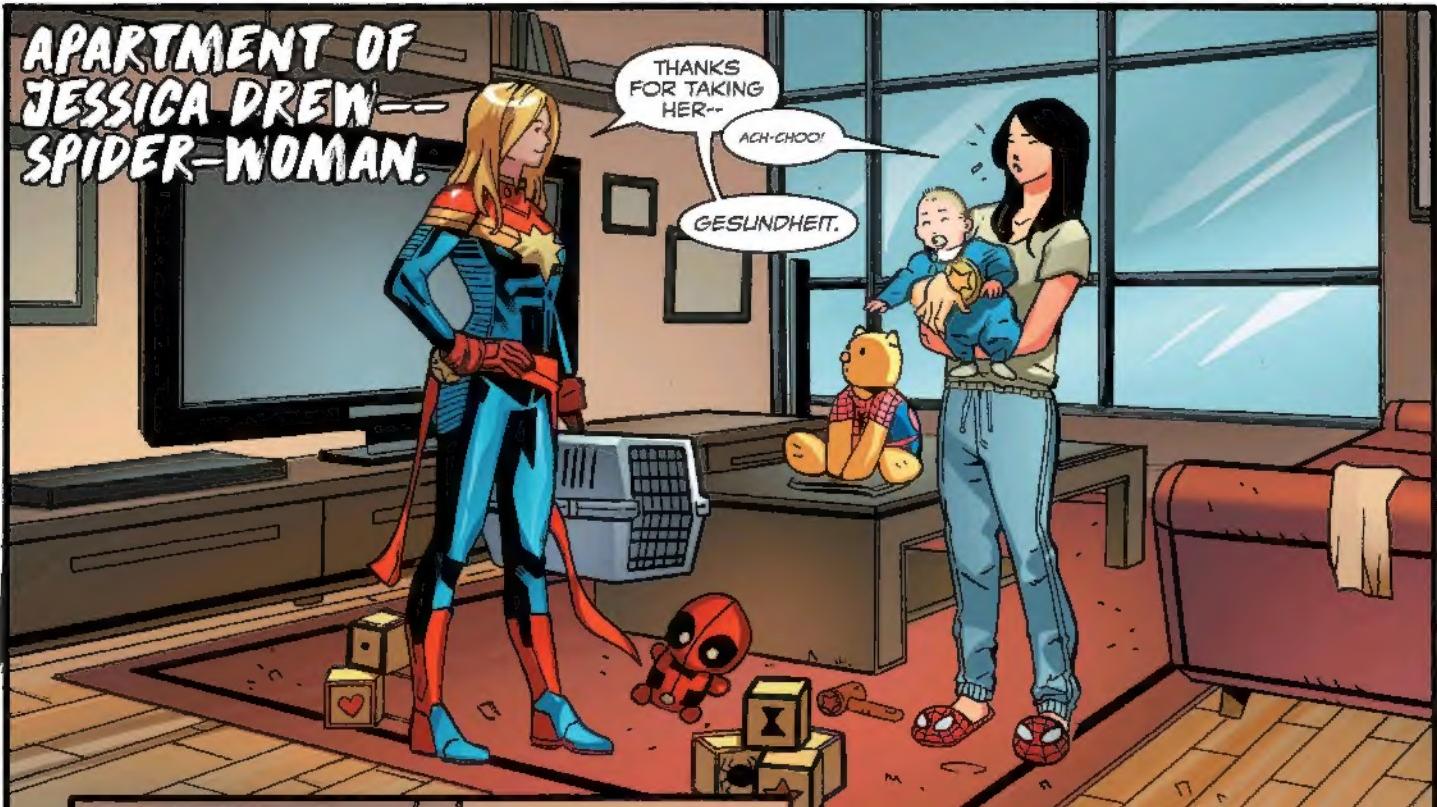


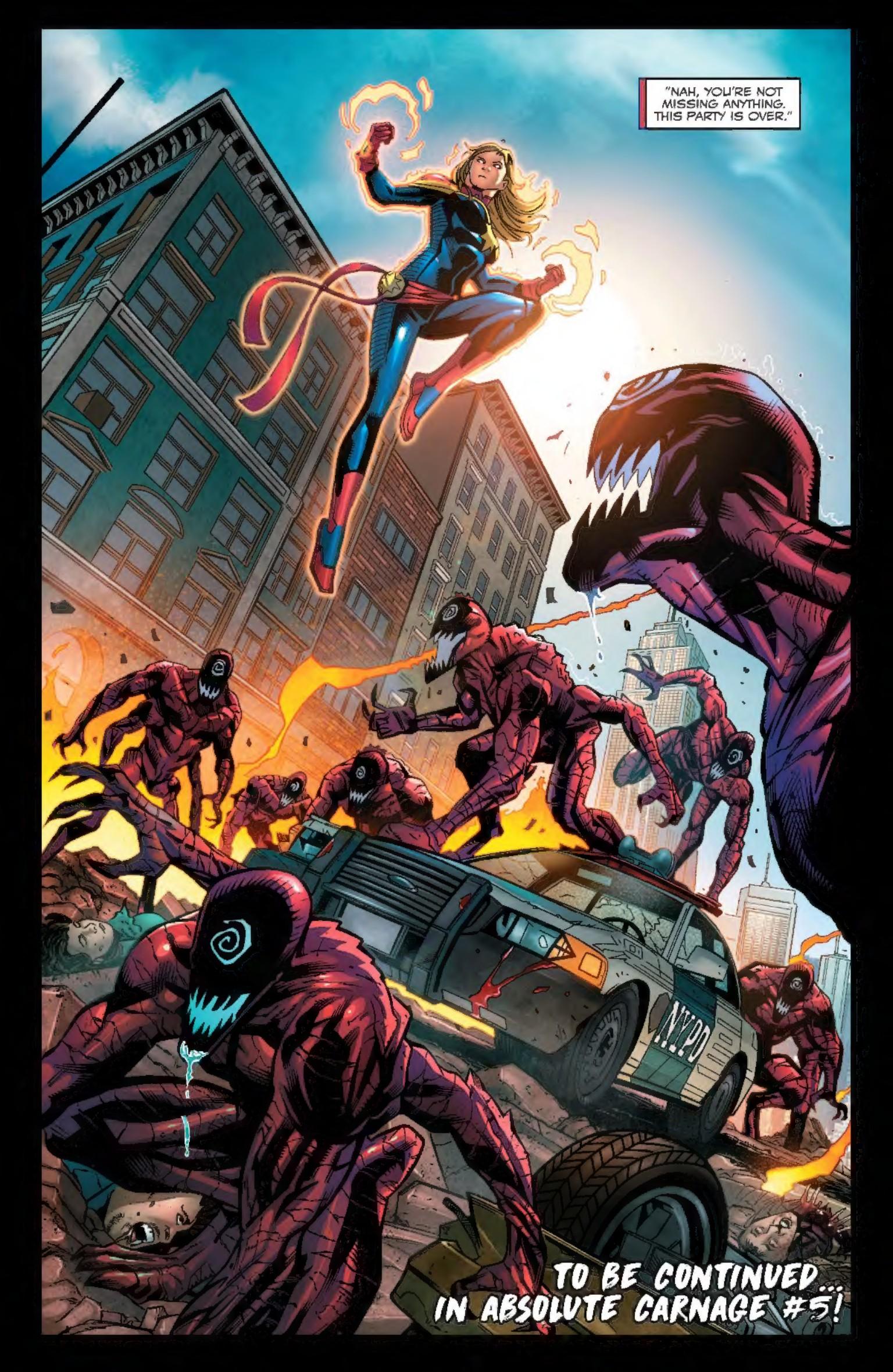


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APARTMENT OF JESSICA DREW-- SPIDER-WOMAN.





"NAH, YOU'RE NOT
MISSING ANYTHING.
THIS PARTY IS OVER."

TO BE CONTINUED...
IN ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5!



CLETUS' Clubhouse

SEND EMAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT")!

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

AT LAST! After 29 issues, 580 pages and nearly 11 months of hard work **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** is a wrap, and there's only one thing left to say—**THANK YOU!**

First and foremost, thank **YOU!** Yes, **YOU!** You and all the other readers out there in Mighty Marveldom who stuck with us through this crazy romp! Everyone here at Venom HQ worked double time to get this eviscerating epic in your hands, and we hope you enjoyed it!

Thanks also to symbiotic storytellers across the whole event! If you missed any of our tie-ins, be sure to snag 'em while they're still in stock at your local shop! We tried to make sure that every tie-in told a complete story, and you never know which issues we might have slipped a clue for the future of Venom into!

But enough plugging (for now!)—this is the final letter column of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**, so let's not waste another minute and get to your letters!



Dear Carnage Cut-ups,
I am 64 and so I come late to appreciation of things horror.

My main touchstone, recently, has been Stephen King's history of horror, called *Danse Macabre* (1981).

Part of King's thesis is that the genre breaks down into three types: horror (monsters etc.), terror (serial killers) and just the plain old gross-out.

Not surprisingly the series **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** has all three aspects rolled into one cool narrative.

Carnage is visibly gross. Even without his powers you would still not want him to touch you!

He's as gross a creature as they come!

And horror? Where do I have to explain that Carnage brings it all to "monster horror"?

In all of Marvel's 5,200 characters Carnage is the one most likely to invoke horror.

Finally, Carnage represents terror. He is as much a serial killer as Hannibal Lecter.

His very presence on the page makes the reader recoil. In terror, I might add.

So congrats to all the writers working on **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**—Spencer, Ewing, Tieri, Cates et al.

Horror, terror and the gross-out.

With **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** you have hit a "Kingian" home run!

Rabbi Steven Lebow
Temple Kol Emeth
Marietta, GA

Thanks so much, Rabbi! That's some high praise, likening our little funny book to the work of one of the most prolific horror authors of all time, but we're more than happy to take it!

To everyone at Cletus' Clubhouse,
First off, I just want to say that I have read all but one **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** issue that is out and I love it! I must have read the first issue around five times! Other than the first issue, I just want to point out some of the other issues I really enjoyed.

The first issue I would like to point out is **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES** #2; I just love how Miles and the piece of symbiote he's infected with are fighting for control over his body and how, just like in **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK**, it shows what it might look like when you are bonded with a symbiote and how different it is when you're forced to wear one instead of willing choosing to bond with it.

The second issue I want to point out (so far) is **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL** #1; I just loved reading the first **DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE** series so I was very excited to read this! It also is probably the only tie-in that will still have humor in it and that's what I love about Deadpool...and that he is, according to Carnage, a "unicorn" which makes sense and is also hilarious. The final thing I liked about the issue is how Carnage just straight up says, "I just really hate that guy."

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My third and final issue has got to be **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM** #2. I was quite excited to see this character again and I am really excited to see if Scream will face off against Carnage! Now THAT is what I'm waiting for.

Lastly, I just wanted to thank the whole team writing these comics and I will try my best to collect them all!

#CarnageRules

Best Regards,

Sean from Minneapolis

Thanks so much for writing and being such a devoted Venomaniac, Sean! It always means a lot to everyone involved in the books to hear from readers like you, who read each and every week—it lets us know that we're doin' something right! We've (clearly) got some crazy stuff in the works for the symbiotes of the Marvel Universe: hope you like where we're headed!

Hey **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** Team,
I just read my copy of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** #3, and oh my days, it was amazing. I was shocked to see the Hulk bond with the symbiote and I also can't believe he's never worn one before. Also the tie-in issues fit perfectly in place, explaining the unknown gap of other characters between issues. Overall it was INCREDIBLE. One question though: How long have you been building to this point?

Sincerely,
Nicholas R.

Hi, Nicholas! Thanks so much for your letter!
Glad you didn't see the Hulk twist coming.
Man, that reveal was TRICKY to keep secret.
Glad it worked out!

We get that question a lot, about how long we've been building to this story, and the shortest answer is that we've been headed here since the very beginning of Donny's run. The bones of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** were in the very first pitch Donny ever sent my way, so everything we've been doing—not only in **VENOM**, but in our supporting series like **WEB OF VENOM**, as well—has been building to this story...and the next one, so keep reading!

To the **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** team that is doing my favorite book, **SCREAM**!

Loving the story and the amazing art, oh and did I mention the art? It's breathtaking and I love the characters from SCREAM and am loving the story. Scream has real spunk and flair and is not afraid to hold her ground. Congrats to all, I am on board.

Longtime Marvel reader for close to 50 years,
Damien A.
Millfield, Australia

Oh, man! A letter all the way from Australia! Thanks so much for reading and for writing, Damien! Scream is one of my favorite characters too and, just wait, we've got BIG plans for the Daughter of Venom!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
I just wanted to thank you for giving us this incredible event. I've been reading comics since Christmas, but this series got me more into comics. The artwork is just so clean and gorgeous and it really fits the tone of the entire series. Right now, I have ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3 that I'm about to read and I can't wait to see what will happen next after them. I'm certainly looking forward to how the series will end, so keep up the good work!

J. Silva

And we hope we ended with style, J.! Thanks for your letter!

Dear Cletus' Clubhouse,
I've just finished issue ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4. Wow!!!

Donny Cates is absolutely smashing it with the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE series—I'm hooked! I loved how they've branched it off and tied in other characters.

I loved Spidey growing up and the symbiotes. Venom is my favorite character in the Marvel Universe, but the truth is there would be no Venom without Carnage. I'm loving this series and when issue #5 concludes...there's gonna be Carnage!

From Tom H.

Tom H.?

TOM H.?

I can't believe it—we've gotten a letter from SPIDER-MAN himself. The one and only Tom Holland, cleverly hiding his identity from us by only using his last initial. Thought he could pull a fast one on us, but NOT THIS TIME, Spidey! HAH!

Hey, while you're here, can I have your autograph? Also are you going to be in the sequel to VEN—what's that?
Hold on a moment, reader.

...

WELL.

I've just been informed by Danny that this

is not actually a letter from noted MCU film actor and story spoiler Tom Holland, so I feel foolish. I'm sorry for the case of mistaken identity, Tom, and for those of you keeping score at home, the tally is:

Party Pooper Danny: 1. Tom Holland
Superfan Devin: 0

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Crew,
I know that I've said before that ABSOLUTE CARNAGE was awesome from the very first issue, but #4 just blew my mind. This story just gets better and better and it shows no sign of going downhill. The artwork with all the red also sets the tone for the comic very well.

This last issue has gone from hope, to lack thereof, to hope again. I've written Carnage fanfiction stories, but this is taking my expectations to a whole new level. This has been a great Marvel event these past couple months, and I cannot wait until the final issue comes out. You guys haven't let me down, so I know you guys will not disappoint.

Sincerely,
Philip O.

Thanks for reading, Philip! Hoping our grand finale lived up to your expectations!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
When I first started reading this series, I was absolutely blown away by those epic moments and the epic art styles. I love how Donny Cates is treating Eddie and Cletus as characters so far. I want to see more of Eddie and his son's relationship. They were one of the best things about this series. But anyways, just finished reading issue #3, and once again I'm blown away by those epic moments (especially at the end!) The series have been so awesome, and the characters are handled really well so far. I can't wait to see what else you guys have in store for us for the next issue. Donny Cates is a BEAST.

Kazi



Dear Cletus,
I just wanted to say that I think you're doing an amazing job! It can't be easy...taking over the world and trying to resurrect the Great Symbiote God Knull (All Hail Knull)! But you seem to be doing a killer job (pun intended). I gotta say, I'm a huge fan! I've been following your work since AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361, and your breakout killing spree in the now classic MAXIMUM CARNAGE series, and I've gotta say that I really hope you succeed this time. Can't be easy committing mass murder with as much enthusiasm and dedication that you have, especially with that pesky Spider-Man and Eddie Brock, and his do-good symbiote Venom, getting in the way all the time. Killin' ain't easy! And I don't think you get the respect you deserve.

I am absolutely lovin' ABSOLUTE CARNAGE! I hope it never ends. Well, I gotta go. I'll check back in with ya next issue. Long live Carnage!

Keep slayin', brother, and I'll keep reading.

Yours truly,

David C.

North Hollywood, CA



Dear Venomized Marvel Editors and Staff, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is the most crazy, metal and insane Carnage story so far. This story definitely makes me worry about Eddie and those Codex users because Cletus as a Venomized god is scary to think about.

Luckily, the symbiote took over the Hulk (yeah, that was super crazy!) so let's hope Venomized Hulk did some damage.

Thank you all for bringing this story to us Venom fans! This definitely helps me get thru the stress of college coursework. Keep it coming and never forget: We are Venom!

Tyler O
Winona, MN

Hah! I've said it before, Tyler: Comics have always been one of the best things around for when I'm trying to deal with stress! I'm so glad to hear that they're helping you the same way they helped me, even if it's for a short escape to a world full of symbiotes and celestials for a few minutes.

Hi,
My name is Pedro, I am 13 years old and I've been a Marvel fan since I saw the first Iron Man movie. But when I started searching for more Marvel characters, I found Carnage and I immediately liked him. His look, his story... I really don't know why, but let's keep going.

A year ago I found a Spider-Man comic at my local mall and really enjoyed it but did not buy more. When I found out that Carnage was getting a new comic series I thought, "Maybe it's a good way to really get into the Marvel Comics world."

Let me tell you, I've finished reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 and every time I finish an issue I think the art is amazing, the story is amazing and I really need to get the next issue—and fast!

So after this long message I just wanna say, thanks for the great storyline and for giving me a great time!

Fan from Portugal,
Pedro C.

This is one of my favorite letters yet, Pedro! Nothing makes any of us here at the House of Ideas happier than when we learn that the stories we work on each and every month have introduced someone new to comic books! Thanks so much for giving ABSOLUTE CARNAGE a chance, and I hope you'll stick with us through what's next.